

\*\*\*\*\*March 11, 2019\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a regular meeting on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Those present were: Mayor Dan Landrum  
Vice Mayor Amy Speck  
Councilmember Bill Lusk  
Councilmember Susannah Murdock

Also present were: Town Manager Boyd Veal  
Town Attorney Harry Cash  
Finance Director/Town Recorder Carol White  
See attached list for others present

Mayor Landrum led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

### **Minutes**

The minutes for the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

The minutes for the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented. There being no changes, the minutes were approved.

### **Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition and Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police**

Rex Barton, representing the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) presented Signal Mountain Police Chief, Mike Williams, with a plaque in recognition of the Signal Mountain Police Department (SMPD) achieving accreditation status through the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation (TLEA) program. Mr. Barton read and distributed a TLEA press release (copy attached) announcing the accreditation. Mayor Landrum stated that members of the SMPD are recognized every day by people living in the Town. He said that through the efforts of the SMPD, Signal Mountain is one of the safest places to live.

### **Presentation – Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Report on Water Rate Study**

MTAS Finance & Accounting Consultant, Brad Harris, and MTAS Public Works Engineering Consultant, Sharon Rollins, provided the Council with a PowerPoint presentation (copy attached) detailing the results of their study of the Town's water rates. Mr. Harris and Ms. Rollins presented 2 Case Studies providing a 5-year financial forecast of the Town's water system. Case Study #1 showed the financial impact of continuing without a rate adjustment. Case Study #2 provided the impact with a rate adjustment of 15% for 3 years and a cost of living increase in following years.

Case Study #2 provided Option A which assessed a \$5.94 "Customer Service Charge" and \$5.94 per 1,000 gallons of use. This fee would only be assessed on active meters. Option B assumes a "Customer Service Charge of \$6.00 for all taps, including inactive taps, with a per 1,000 usage fee of \$5.80. The MTAS Consultant's recommendation is to adopt Plan B.

### **Citizen Comments**

Mayor Landrum invited comments from the audience.

Ellis Gardner, Stratford Way, expressed concern regarding traffic delineators placed in front of his residence. He said the delineators are an urban solution in a residential neighborhood.

Katherine Gardner, Stratford Way, expressed concern regarding traffic delineators placed on Stratford Way. She said that while child safety is of paramount concern, that aesthetics and safety do not have to be mutually exclusive.

Ardian Totten, Stratford Way, said there is a blind spot at the bottom of a hill across from her driveway, creating dangerous conditions for walking or bicycling.

Rebecca Woods, Stratford Way, expressed concerns about speeders on Stratford Way. She said she has asked the Town to investigate installing speed humps. She said she believed the Town had performed a traffic study and would like to know the results. She expressed concern regarding the traffic delineators place on Stratford Way.

Charlie Gardner, Golf Drive, asked the Council to take their time to evaluate the water rates. He said that an increase of \$40.00 plus, as outlined in the rate study, is too much and said there should be a happy medium.

Anne Haygood, James Boulevard, thanked the Council for MTAS viability and rate studies.

Mayor Landrum asked about the delineators on Stratford Way. Town Manager, Boyd Veal, and Public Works Director, Loretta Hopper, explained that the delineators are a temporary measure suggested by the MTAS Traffic Engineer. The MTAS Engineer recommended that these delineators be placed as a method to narrow the road to determine if that will have an impact on the traffic speeds in the area. Ms. Hopper said the Town had not performed a traffic study but had sent traffic concerns to the MTAS consultant who suggested several options, with only the temporary delineators being economically feasible as a temporary measure. She said the delineators are a temporary measure to determine the feasibility of narrowing the roadway. Ms. Hopper said that one option under discussion may not be possible since, due to the curvature of the roadway, speed humps may not be able to be placed effectively.

Katherine Gardner, Stratford Way, said that she has observed drivers moving into the opposite lane to avoid the narrowing, instead of slowing down.

There being no further comments, the meeting resumed.

## Resolutions

1. "A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ROBBIE HENDERSON AND CALLAN PIERSON TO THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN'S PERSONNEL COMMITTEE."

Vice Mayor Speek made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Lusk seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

2. "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARGARET (MAGGIE) GREENE TO THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN'S LIBRARY BOARD."

Vice Mayor Speek made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Murdock seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

3. "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PURCHASE ONE (1) MINI-EXCAVATOR, FROM MID-SOUTH EQUIPMENT CO., CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$45,900.00) TO BE USED BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE."

Vice Mayor Speek made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Lusk seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion was approved.

## Discussion

- a. Revisions to Design Criteria. Karen Rennich, Texas Avenue, spoke as the Vice Chair of the Design Review Committee (DRC). She provided the Council with a handout outlining proposed changes to Town Code 14-407 regarding exterior forms and materials (copy attached).

Following discussions by the Council, Mayor Landrum asked for clarification of the term "seam roofs". Mayor Landrum also asked for specifications regarding the terms "smaller component" and "large expanse" as referenced in the proposed added section for windows and doors.

- b. Water Rate Study. Mr. Veal reminded the Council that the MTAS consultants have recommended Option B of the water rate study. He said this rate adjustment needs to be in place by July 1 for the new budget.

Councilmember Lusk said the Town needs to move forward. He said that the system is currently losing water and that new meters would be more accurate. He said the projects, as planned, are designed to fix the areas where the system is losing the most water.

Mr. Veal said that this issue leads into the bigger decision that needs to be made: whether the Town is going to keep or sell the water system. Vice Mayor Speek said the Council should not vote on this decision without all members being present.

Mayor Landrum asked staff to draw up an ordinance adopting the rate increase proposed by MTAS for the next meeting.

**Tentative Agenda**

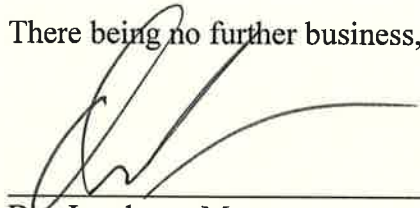
Council discussed a tentative agenda for the March 25, 2019 meeting.

**Other Business**

Vice Mayor Speek informed the Council that she will be meeting on Wednesday with Kathy Lennon and Dr. Bryan Johnson from Hamilton County Department of Education. She said one of the topics that will be discussed is changing the start time for Signal Mountain High School.


Mayor Landrum said he would like to have discussion regarding preparing white papers on Town topics and posting them on the web site.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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Dan Landrum, Mayor



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Recorder